

Message Text

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PAGE 01 AMMAN 07800 250843Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 OMB-01 /086 W
-----121729 250908Z /12

R 250740Z OCT 77
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3628
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 7800

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EG, XF
SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN THINKING ON LINKAGE OF JORDANIAN/PALESTINIAN
ENTITY

REF: CAIRO 17270

1. FOLLOWING HIS RETURN FROM TRIP TO EGYPT WHERE HE MET
WITH SADAT AND OTHER PROMINENT EGYPTIANS, JORDANIAN MINISTER
OF INFORMATION INFORMED EMBASSY ON OCTOBER 19 HE HAS
IMPRESSION THAT CURRENT GOE THINKING IS ONCE AGAIN TO
PROMOTE PALESTINIAN GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE CONCEPT.

2. ABU ODEH BASED HIS ASSESSMENT ON LONG CONVERSATION
HE HAD WITH EGYPTIAN JORNALIST MAHMUD SABRI WHO ABU ODEH
CALLED "SADAT'S HEYKAL"; THEREFORE HE THOUGHT SABRI'S IDEAS
WERE REFLECTIVE OF HIGH-LEVEL GOE THINKING ON SUBJECT.

3. ABU ODEH SAID SABRI PROMOTED GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE CONCEPT
AS A MEANS OF TURNING THE PLO INTO A MORE PURPOSEFUL AND
MODERATE POLITICAL, AS OPPOSED TO PARAMILITARY, BODY.

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SABRI ALSO SEEMED TO SUGGEST GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE
MIGHT BE A WAY TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF LINKAGE OF A
PALESTINIAN ENTITY WITH JORDAN, WHICH SADAT AND GOE
HAVE SPORADICALLY PUT FORWARD OVER RECENT MONTHS.
SABRI THOUGHT THAT THIS "INDEPENDENT" GOVERNMENT IN
EXILE COULD THEN COME TO AGREEMENT WITH GOJ REGARDING
QUESTION OF ULTIMATE LINKAGE OF PALESTINIAN ENTITY

WITH JORDAN. ABU ODEH IMPLIED THAT SABRI WAS SUGGESTING A MEANS OF SOMEHOW MEETING (OR FINESSING) PLO DEMAND THAT IT WOULD RESOLVE LINKAGE QUESTION ONLY AFTER IT HAD "SOVEREIGNTY" REGARDING WEST BANK.

3. REGARDING RECENT MOVES BY FORMER JORDANIAN CABINET MINISTER MUSTAFA DODIN TO PROMOTE WEST BANK ALTERNATIVE TO PLO (JERUSALEM 1676), ABU ODEH DISMISSED DODIN AS "THE LAST PERSON THE GOJ WOULD WISH TO HAVE PLEADING ITS CAUSE." ABU ODEH WAS HOWEVER CHARACTERISTICALLY MORE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT BUILDING RELATIONS WITH SOME OF THE WEST BANK MAYORS.

4. COMMENT: WE DEFER TO EMBASSY CAIRO TO EVALUATE EXTENT TO WHICH SABRI MAY REFLECT CURRENT GOE THINKING ON PALESTINIAN QUESTION. ABU ODEH, AS CREATIVE HEAD OF WEST BANK AFFAIRS, IS OBVIOUSLY ANXIOUS TO EXPLORE ANY MEANS OF KEEPING ALIVE CONCEPT OF GOJ/WEST BANK LINKAGE ON TERMS THAT MIGHT ULTIMATELY LEAD JORDAN TO A POSITION OF HEGEMONY OR AT LEAST CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE OVER THE WEST BANK.
PICKERING

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